



Parliamentarians for Global Action
Parlamentarios para la Acción Global
Action Mondiale des Parlementaires
برلمانيون من أجل التحرك العالمي

Press Release - For Immediate Release

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On International Justice Day – MPs recall the Nuremberg Legacy of “No Impunity for International Crimes”

New York, The Hague, Kyiv, 13 July 2016, Members of **Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA)** are meeting in Ukraine this week to mark International Justice day, 17 July, and the struggle to end impunity for international crimes as established by the Nuremberg Tribunals in 1945. International Justice Day commemorates the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on 17 July 1998: The Statute established the first permanent, independent Court with jurisdiction over crimes against humanity, genocide, war crimes and the crime of aggression. In this context and within the framework of PGA’s *ICC Campaign for the Effectiveness and Universality of the Rome Statute*, on 13 July, the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine, Human Rights Agenda, Parliamentarians for Global Action and partners from civil society are co-organizing a **“Parliamentary Roundtable on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law and the Rome Statute of the ICC into Ukrainian Legislation”** supported by the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine. The Roundtable is held from 15:20 – 17:30 in Hrushevskogo Str. 18/2, room 11, with opening remarks by **Ms. Oksana Syroyid, MP, Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine**.

Statement by Mr. Mark Pritchard, Member of the House of Commons, Chair of the PGA National Group in the United Kingdom:

The world we are living in today faces growing threats to peace and security. Investigating and prosecuting international crimes, namely genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression is essential to the promotion of the Rule of law and to lasting, sustainable and just peace. We are supporting all like minded people in Ukraine in sending the message that there should be no impunity for perpetrators of most serious crimes of international concern by ratifying and fully implementing, the Rome Statute of the ICC.

PGA’s Delegation, including **Ms. Barbara Lochbihler, MEP (Germany), Mr. Mark Pritchard MP (United Kingdom) Mr. Graham Jones MP (United Kingdom)**, are in Kyiv to discuss the ratification and full implementation of the Rome Statute of ICC into Ukraine’s National Legislation with Members of Parliament, experts, civil society and officials in Kiev. The Roundtable will benefit from the expertise of **H.E. Justice Volodymyr Vasylenko, Head of the Commission to Investigate Human Rights Violations in Ukraine**, Judge at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and **Mr. Konstantin Zadoya, Head of Human Rights Agenda Working Group**.

Statement by Dr. David Donat Cattin, Secretary-General of PGA:

We are here ahead of International Justice Day, recalling that under the principle of complementarity, the primary responsibility to prosecute international crimes falls within sovereign States. Under the Rome Statute, states have the obligation to fully

implement the Statute within their national legislation. By doing so, States strengthen their national legal framework. The Court is one of 'last resort' when States are unable or unwilling to investigate and prosecute the alleged perpetrators of crimes under International Law.

Ukraine is at a turning point. As a leader in the region, the country has a duty to foster a climate propitious to the promotion of Human Rights and the Rule of Law. There is no alternative for sustainable peace to the respect of International Law and the protection of the civilian population.

The discussions among all relevant stakeholders represented in this momentous event will be closed by the remarks of **Ms. Svitlana Zalishchuk, MP, Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Euro-Atlantic Cooperation and Euro-integration of Ukrainian Rada's Committee on Foreign Affairs, Member of PGA.** The Roundtable will help foster a more fertile ground for an improved understanding of the role parliamentarians can play in aligning Ukrainian legislation with international laws and standards. The increased knowledge stemming from peer exchanges on feasible adaptations to Ukrainian legislature may lead to the Revision of the draft law on harmonization of Criminal Code of Ukraine and the Rome Statute of the ICC.

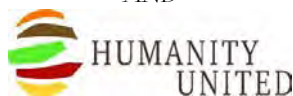
About PGA

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) is a non-governmental, non-partisan international network of approximately 1,300 legislators in over 140 elected parliaments around the globe that informs and mobilizes parliamentarians to advocate for human rights and the rule of law, democracy, human security, non-discrimination and gender equality. In the framework of its *Parliamentary Campaign for the Effectiveness and Universality of the ICC System (PGA ICC Campaign)* under the International Law & Human Rights Programme (ILHR), PGA has been working with Ukrainian Members of Parliament since 2003 to promote the fight against impunity, the advancement of the Rule of Law, democracy and gender justice. The work of the ILHR Programme and participation of parliamentarians from all over the world is central to the attainment of PGA's vision, to contribute to the creation of a *rules-based international order, for a more equitable, safe and democratic world.*

THE PGA ICC CAMPAIGN RECEIVES THE SUPPORT OF

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the UN
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland

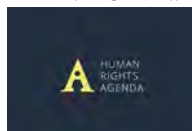
AND



PGA RECEIVES CORE SUPPORT FROM

Sweden (Sida) & Denmark (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

THIS EVENT WAS ORGANIZED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA



On-line access to PGA ICC Campaign:

<http://www.pgaction.org/programmes/ilhr/overview.html> - <https://www.facebook.com/pgaction>
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